



News Release

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SBA NAMES 2004 NORTH CAROLINA MINORITY IN BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Charlotte, NC – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Victor Guzman, the *Minority in Business Advocate of the Year* for 2004.

“It is a great pleasure to honor the Minority in Business Advocate of the Year and salute the contributions of North Carolina’s advocates for small business,” said SBA’s North Carolina District Director Lee Cornelison.

Mr. Guzman will receive his award at the Charlotte Chamber’s Business Growth Network meeting, Tuesday April 27, 2004 at a special Small Business Week event with keynote speaker SBA Deputy Administrator, Ms. Melanie Sabelhaus. The event will be held 7:30-9:30 a.m. at Spirit Square's McGlohon Theatre, 345 College Street.

Victor Guzman was a founding member of the Las Americas Business Council, which is known today as the Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte. He is currently a board member and past Chairman, helping Latin American businesses and professionals connect amongst themselves and with the community at large.

He has owned successful businesses in Technology and Real Estate and has helped other businesses grow and contribute to the economic development of our city by providing guidance through the Spanish Center of Business and Language (TSC). TSC is a liaison center for businesses attempting to build a bridge to the Latino/Hispanic community throughout Charlotte/Mecklenburg, the United States, and countries overseas, by helping newly arrived entrepreneurs understand and succeed when creating their businesses in Charlotte.

He has also purchased a Translation Services Company, *TSI*, that provides translations and Interpretation in all languages with Certified translators across the world to insure the accuracy of the materials.

In 2002 he joined forces with several other businesses in Charlotte to form a co-located alliance called The Emerging Markets Resource Center. This Center has the focus of helping all emerging communities coming to the Charlotte area and the United States.

In September of 2003, Victor created the TV program CAMINANDO en Las Carolinas, the first Spanish magazine style program designed and produced in the Charlotte Region. He serves as the show’s executive producer. The program aired first on Action 64 channel 10 and became so successful that now airs on it’s sister station, Channel 9 WSOC.

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Victor has also been the advocate voice of minority businesses issues as a member of the Charlotte Chamber Board of Directors and during the transition of the City of Charlotte's Minority and Women Businesses Certification Board. His input in the Stakeholders Committee helped develop what is today a more open and more clearly define Small Business Enterprises Board of Certification.

At the beginning of 2003 Mr. Guzman achieved a long time personal goal by creating the first Spanish language magazine style television show in the Charlotte area. Caminando en Las Carolinas addresses gaps in information between the Latino community and the community in general.

When he retired in 1991, after 22 years of active service in the U. S. Navy, he re-located to Charlotte and worked as a manufacturers' representative with Reynolds, Porth & Associates, mc. until establishing his companies in 1994. Since his move to Charlotte Victor has been active in the Charlotte community, including:

- President of the Latin American Coalition
- Past President of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Access Corporation.
- Member of the Latin American Council of Charlotte
- Past Member of the Mayor International Cabinet
- Past Member of the Minority Affairs Council, Mecklenburg County

He was born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico and grew up in Brooklyn, NY. He earned a Bachelors Degree in Business at night, from National University in San Diego, CA. while serving in the US Navy. He has been married for 29 years and has two children and two grandchildren.

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